

CONCLUSIONS

Agent for Applicant respectfully states that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully solicits same.

Yours faithfully,

Agent for Applicant

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Figure 9 is a program function chart illustrating the operation of Voice Message Facility of the present invention, in association with the Remote Message Management Facility.

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Figure 10 is a program function chart illustrating the operation of Fax Message Facility of the present invention, in association with the Remote Message Management Facility.

Figure 11 is a program function chart illustrating the operation of the Contact Information Facility of the present invention

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Figure 12 is a program function chart illustrating the operation of the Remote Message Management Facility of the present invention.

In the drawings, preferred embodiments of the invention are illustrated by way of example. It is to be expressly understood that the description and drawings are only for the purpose of illustration and as an aid to understanding, and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention.

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Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

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Referring to Fig. 1, there is illustrated in a system resource flowchart the preferred embodiment of the present invention illustrated herein. In particular, Fig. 1 illustrates the resources that comprise the private communication portal or "PCP" 10 of the present invention. PCP 10 comprises a dual computer architecture further comprising a first computer or Private Server 14 and server computer or second locator Server Computer 12. It should be understood that Private Server 14 may comprise a network station, personal computer terminal or server, provided that such Private Server 14 is devoted to a private user who may be a business or individual. Said Private Server 14 also comprises a message server 15, as best illustrated in Fig. 1 and a name that identifies the particular private server, as is well known.

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Server Computer 12 is connected with unrestricted access to an interconnected network of computers such as the Internet 16. Server Computer 12 may comprise one or more computers, as is well known.

- 5 It is desirable to also provide Private Server 14 with a permanent Internet connection 13 provided, for example, by a coaxial cable connection or high speed xDSL telephone connections or the like, also as shown in Fig. 1.

- 10 Private Server 14 is provided with a computer program product of the present invention dedicated to Private Server 14. In a first preferred embodiment of the present invention, best illustrated in Fig. 1, this computer product provides a data communication facility 3 and means for communication 5 of the location of Private Server 14 on a computer network such as the Internet to Server Computer 12, as further described below. Said data communication facility 3 can be provided with interfaces with a number of facilities 17 that generate data, in a manner well known to those skilled in the art, such as voice message reception, fax reception, e-mail retrieval, alarm monitoring facilities, child monitoring facilities and the like. As is explained below, the computer program product of the present invention presents means for remotely accessing said data.

- 15 In another aspect of the computer program product of the present invention, said Server Computer 12 is provided with a server computer program that communicates with said computer program product dedicated to Private Server 14. Said server computer program, illustrated in Fig. 1, provides a Location Facility 6 or means responsive to said means for communication 5 of the location of Private Server 14 for providing remote access to said Private Server 14, as explained below.

Private Messaging and Contact Facility

- 25 In a second preferred embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Fig. 4, said data communication facility 3 further comprises a communication interface 7 and communication software program 9 or Private Messaging and Contact Facility which

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When a remote computer or Requesting Device 30 including a remote computer data communication program or facility, such as the Web browser illustrated in Fig. 1, or the Mobile browser illustrated in Fig. 2, requests a connection to Private Server 14, Requesting Device 30 first connects to Server Computer 12 in a manner that is well-known and indicates the name of the Private Server 14 to which Requesting Device 30 wishes to connect.

In particular, in the preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated herein, a request is made by Requesting Device 30 to Server Computer 12 to locate Private Server 12 by means of an entry in a Web Page field or by an HTTP request that already contains the name of Private Server 14.

10 Server Computer 12 will validate the request to connect to Private Server 14 and initiate a search in the directory associated with the directory service program 28 to obtain the current Internet Protocol address of Private Server 14 and port number of message server 15 of Private Server 14 or the current communication session. Server Computer 12 is thereby engaged to allow a connection to be set up between Requesting Device 30 and Private Server 14.

15 In the embodiment of the present invention illustrated herein, three connection methods are specifically provided for sake of illustration, as between the Requesting Device 30 and Private Server 14. First a Direct Connection can be provided using a secure web protocol such as "https", in a manner that is well known. In this method, once Server Computer 12 has validated the connection request provided by Requesting Device 30, the Requesting Device 30 is simply forwarded to the
20 Private Server 14, in a manner that is well-known. Thereafter, all interactions will take place directly between the Requesting Device 30 and the Private Server 14 during the communication session.

Second, where the Server Computer 12 has network access to Private Server 14 but Private Server 14 is not accessible from the Internet 16, and may have a network address that is only valid within the network, a Proxy Server (not shown) is used to provide the connection between the
25 Requesting Device 30 and Private Server 14, in a manner that is also well known.